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Welcome to the "EdLabor Insider" e-newsletter! In this issue:

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Kentuckians Tell House Democrats About Need for Minimum Wage Hike

House Democrats hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) on the need for a minimum wage increase in Louisville, Kentucky last weekend. Sheryl Wade, a local single mother and minimum wage earner, took the time to talk about her struggle to make ends meet. Local lawmakers and dozens of community and labor leaders also attended the meeting, and called for a [minimum wage increase](#) at both the federal and state levels.



Bipartisan Support for a Minimum Wage Increase Grows

On July 12, the House passed, 260-159, a motion sponsored by Rep. George Miller to instruct congressional negotiators to increase to \$7.25 the minimum wage paid to workers who receive federal job training assistance. Every House Democrat and 64 Republicans supported the measure. The vote is non-binding, but it was a successful attempt by Democrats in putting Republicans on record and demonstrating that a minimum wage increase has the support of a majority in the House. [Watch Rep. Miller speak](#) about minimum wage on the House Floor. (Read a [text version](#) here.)

Survey Results: Health Insurance Is Your Biggest Workplace Concern

A month ago many of you completed a short survey telling us which labor issues you thought were most

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important -- we appreciate your responses. Thirty-two percent of you said that health insurance for you and your families were the most important workplace issues. Twenty-one percent ranked saving enough money for retirement as the most important. Seventeen percent said it was most important to increase wages for everyone by increasing the minimum wage.

A New Direction for America

Democrats have introduced a [New Direction for America](#) agenda, which includes several initiatives to help working families. The American people are facing difficult times. Rising gas and health care costs are taking a toll on family budgets. Wages have not kept pace with inflation. Bright and eager high school graduates can no longer afford to go to college. House Democrats' New Direction plan will lead the way.

Outrage of the Week: House Republicans Won't Bring a Vote on Minimum Wage Before August Recess

Yesterday, House Republican Leader John Boehner said it is "doubtful" that the Republican-controlled House will schedule a vote on a minimum wage increase next week -- the last week before Congress goes out of session until September.

Committee on Education and the Workforce | Democratic Staff | 2101 Rayburn House Office Building | Washington, DC 20515
t: 202-225-3725

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